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They are about ready to crown Hoover king of the food belt.

A curfew rule has been working pretty well in Barre of late without a curfew law.

That council of German war lords at Brussels may mean another "strategic retreat" on the western front.

At this season of the year most inlanders are brought up against their disadvantage of not having a beach for bathing purposes.

The Kaiser's congratulations to Crown Prince Rupprecht for stopping the Anglo-French drive in Flanders may prove to be rather abortive.

The conscientious objector to war who declared that he would rather be shot than go to war might not find any difference if he tried it.

Vermont is not often included in the death statistics arising from excessive heat; but two deaths in this state already this week indicate that this is not just an ordinary heat wave.

It seems to be proven that the first expeditionary force from the United States did sight some submarines and were attacked by those submarines. Crel's "elaboration" did not affect the main fact anyway—the fact of an attack.

The members of the Washington County Veterans' association will find early September an excellent time to hold their annual reunion at Dewey park, it having been found necessary to postpone the gathering from this month because of the quarantine regulations. It is expected that by the time of the dates selected, the regulations covering Washington county towns will be so modified that it will be possible to hold public gatherings of this sort at least.

In a recent review the Vermonters in camp at Fort Ethan Allen upheld the reputation of the Vermonters in the Civil war as marchers of the highest ability. If an army was starting off on a long hike in the Civil war the order was given frequently to put the Vermonters at the head of the line to set the pace, and that was followed by the order to keep the column well closed up. No less a person than Gen. Segwick saw the desirability of such an arrangement.

Now and then pieces of information are divulged which enable one to form some idea of the size of the American army contingent already on the other side of the ocean. The latest piece of information is that Major General Pershing inspected the American troops encamped in "nearly a dozen villages." It must be taken to be a fact, then, that the American force already back of the front is not merely a dress parade formation which German scoffers referred to a few weeks back.

The deposing of Gen. Brussiloff as the head of the Russian military forces is something about which the world outside of Russia must speculate with little basis for an understanding of the real conditions. Brussiloff demonstrated his capacity as a military leader in 1916 when he led a great offensive into Galicia; but he was a relic of the monarchical regime and held his position under the new revolutionary government merely under sufferance, it seems. The army may be considered democratized by reason of the fact that a former support of the monarchy is supplanted by a man who rose from peasant life—Gen. Korniloff.

Announcement that the British commerce ship losses for the last week were considerably smaller than the maximum means, probably, that a large part of the German submarines were called off the pursuit of merchant ships to lie in wait for American transports which were expected about that time to bring American soldiers bound for the western war front. There surely was no voluntary lessening of German efforts against Great Britain's shipping. It merely became expedient (a big word in the German dictionary) to send part of the wolves of the sea to meet the expected coming of the Americans. So, indirectly, the entry of the United States into the war is aiding Great Britain in an unexpected way.

In the larger centers of population throughout the country there has been manifest during the hot spell a disposition to break down dusty rules and cut the red tape in order that the greatest amount of comfort might be attained by the people who are forced to live in the great super-heated buildings close to the sidewalks. The "Keep off the grass" signs have been pulled up in the public parks and the people have been allowed to loaf in the shade of the trees in daytime and to sleep there at night. Then, too, the kiddies have been permitted to paddle and splash in the waters of the fountains, in the ponds and in the brooks which run through the park. Hydrants have been opened and streams of water have been turned on suffering equines and on the people too. All of these plans

commend themselves. Everything possible should be done toward relieving the suffering of huddled humanity.

Praise of the sanitary conditions of the military camp at Fort Ethan Allen, coming from General William C. Gorgas of the United States army, is calculated to satisfy the relatives and friends of the soldiers gathered there that the health of the enlisted men is being looked after quite thoroughly. General Gorgas has had a great deal of experience with respect to sanitary conditions, and he is in a position to know whereof he speaks. Prior to his declaration, however, there was quite convincing evidence of the fine sanitary conditions at the camp because so relatively few of the men were in the hospital. There is general satisfaction that the men of both the Vermont National Guard and the regular army have been placed under competent sanitary supervision.

## THE PRESENT BRITISH DRIVE.

A big military drive is somewhat like a football attack, it cannot become effective when encountering a field of mud. So the British offensive in Flanders has been held up by reason of the fact that the assaulting force would be compelled to wade through a veritable sea of mud before reaching the opposing line. If an infantry charge should be attempted under such conditions the assault would be slowed up and scattered just as an "interference" in football would be slowed up and scattered; and the result would be virtual victory for the side which merely dug its defenses into the ground and awaited for the shock of the contact. General Haig was unfortunate in his selection of a time for beginning that which promises to be the greatest offensive yet developed in the war because the early setback due to the unfavorable conditions might work to the handicapping of the force of the assault. However, the British have a vast amount of stored up strength back of their operations; and it may confidently be expected that the offensive will renew its momentum just as soon as the conditions become more favorable.

## CURRENT COMMENT

## Bro. Whitehill's Younger Days.

We don't know whether it is whoa-ho-ho or whoa-heist—but, boys, honest to gosh, once upon a time we could take a four-ox team into the woods and pull out a good load of lumber. Now please don't say it would have been far better if we had kept at it—driving oxen.—Waterbury Record.

## The Milk Question.

Mr. H. W. Slocum in another column makes a suggestion for diminishing the cost of milk by reducing the number of delivery teams, etc., and his plan seems practical and feasible. It does not meet the situation, however, because the disturbing element is not competition among the producers, but competition by the condensed milk people, who are bidding up the price of milk steadily. Thus Prof. Slocum's plan for reducing the cost of delivery to city customers does not meet the situation, for selling to the condensed milk people, the farmers have no expense of delivery whatever. Their customers take the milk right at the barn, and pay as much for it as city customers would pay, delivered at their houses, at an expense which must always be large, comparatively, no matter how carefully cut down. As matter of fact, we of the city are competing with the condensed milk men, and thus far we are getting the worse of the competition.—Burlington News.

## A Sensational Vote.

The United States has given prohibition not only a two-thirds but, on the face of the figures, more than a three-fourths vote. With the dissolution of the pairs, its vote 65 to 20 would doubtless stand 79 to 25. With such an overwhelming majority as this we look to see the passage of the resolution in the House by the necessary two-thirds vote—contrary to the general impression which has prevailed—and so its reference to the states for their decision.

For the first time in the history of such things the Senate has inserted a time limit within which the states must act. This is exceedingly wise. Such a proviso ought to be a part of the constitution itself. We have been, heretofore, weak in the respect that an amendment once sent to the states had all the rest of time within which to secure ratification. At least there was no provision or precedent to the contrary; and those persons who asserted that the courts would hold only a "reasonable time" available were relying manifestly on a slender reed.

Six years offers a fair chance for the advocates of the change. The measure will be "privileged" in the parliamentary law of every legislature of the land. It will get to a vote. If its advocates fail to carry it in the first legislature, they can go before the people and try to elect a second one, and if need be—in the biennial elections area—a third. In these circumstances the project stands a good chance of passing. In Massachusetts, for example, would it not be likely that one legislature elected within a six-year period, would contain a national prohibition majority, at a time when the favorable action of other states would be attracting attention to the question? We think so. We think the six New England states can be counted in among the thirty-six necessary to ratification, even though to-day their liquor selling average is among the highest in the land.—Boston Herald.

## A Victory for the People.

The St. Albans Messenger and Professional Men's association receives splendid vindication of its decision not to carry on the Chautauqua through the decision of United States Judge Hough of New York City, upholding the state board of health's order which had been temporarily vacated through the granting of an injunction by Judge Howe. The

court holds that the order was not unreasonable nor beyond the jurisdiction of the state board, so that the original order now stands and is in full force. There can be no legal holding of Chautauqua in Vermont until the order is altered by the state board itself.

The result is a victory for the people of Vermont. It is a triumph over a foreign commercial corporation which placed itself in the attitude of caring little for the health and well-being of those communities in which they had contracted to show so long as they could garner in the dollars brought to them in the main through the activities of the very people whose well-being they seemingly held in such slight esteem. The proposition looked simple here in St. Albans. On the one side was the foreign corporation out after the dollars; on the other the local association which had undertaken the venture because it was considered a community benefit, but which decided, in view of the infantile paralysis situation, that the health of St. Albans and Franklin county was paramount to all other considerations. On one side dollars; on the other side public safety.

The result of the court's decision will be to strengthen public confidence in the state board of health. The state board had nothing to gain in issuing the order other than the protection of the public, for which it is appointed and given powers. There was no motive for the issuing of the order other than the one based on performance of its duty to the people who had entrusted their safety from disease to its hands. The board is made up of experts, of men who make a life study of keeping disease in check. They are disinterested and professional in their actions. Consequently they are not to be lightly criticized when they take a decisive step, by laymen whose knowledge of a situation and its potential dangers is as nothing. The outcome of the controversy promises to be so generally beneficial that the trouble incident to it is made more than worth while.—St. Albans Messenger.

## ASK BRANDON PEOPLE TO PAY.

A Chautauqua Association Calls on Them to Stand Half Loss.

Brandon, Aug. 3.—At a meeting of the Chautauqua guarantors held Wednesday at the Brandon inn, Dr. Pierson of the Swarthmore Chautauqua made a suggestion that the guarantors here assume one-half of the guarantee of \$1500 to help out the loss due to inability to open here next Saturday, on account of the order issued by the state board of health.

He stated that the association would do its best to fill the Brandon dates in a town in Massachusetts and give the guarantors one-half of the gross receipts received there to apply on the \$750.

Some of the 90 or more guarantors seemed to think it a fair proposition and partially agreed to the plan, while others, who were guarantors for the past two years and had to go into their pockets to make up a deficiency in order to pay the association, feel that they are under no obligation whatever.

## HARD STORM AT ST. ALBANS.

Electric Service Was Out of Commission for Five Hours.

St. Albans, Aug. 3.—As a result of two severe electrical storms at Fairfax yesterday, the electric service in this city was out of commission from noon until about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The first storm occurred about 11:30 and the second at 12:30 o'clock.

Two generators at the power plant were burned out. The storm was the most severe of the year and the fall of rain was heavy, the Lamolle river rising about a foot and a half. One generator was burned at the plant Wednesday afternoon, causing trouble with the service here for an hour.

A few local telephone lines were out of commission here as a result of the storm and at the Western Union office all lines south were out of commission for some time. The lines north were all right.

## DIED OF HEAT EFFECTS.

Mrs. Helen Harding of Putney Lived But Short Time.

Putney, Aug. 3.—Mrs. Helen Harding, widow of John Harding and an invalid many years, died Wednesday evening from the effects of the heat. She was overcome in the afternoon and died shortly after.

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—Donahy in Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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